

SENATOR CATHY OSTEN
Nineteenth District

Legislative Office Building
Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Tel. 860-240-0579
Toll-free 1-800-842-1420
www.senatedems.ct.gov/Osten



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Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee
Public Hearing February 22, 2023

In **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 350

AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES FROM THE HIGHWAY USE TAX

Chairman Fonfara, Chairwoman Horn, and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee, I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 350, *AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES FROM THE HIGHWAY USE TAX*.

My name is Cathy Osten and I represent the 19th Senate District, which includes the towns of Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich, and Sprague. I want to thank the leadership of this committee for considering this legislation.

This bill seeks to amend section 12-493a of the General Statutes to exempt all vehicles transporting agricultural commodities, machinery, or supplies from the highway use tax. It was an unintended consequence of the 2021 legislation that the law placed an even heavier burden on our agricultural producers including farms, landscapers, greenhouses, and others normally considered agriculture. The agricultural industry today has been saddled with staggering input costs the likes of which have not been seen in decades.

Connecticut farmers, the tip of our food supply chain, cannot afford to have these ever-increasing tax burdens heaped on them. It would be prudent of us to relieve them and others in agriculture of one more onerous financial burden.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support** of Senate Bill 350. I look forward to working with you on this bill's passage.